

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) A method of allowing medical practitioners to demonstrate the effects of a medical condition or a treatment to an individual using a processing system, the method including causing the processing system to:
  - 5 a) Select a disease or condition, in accordance with an input command received from the medical practitioner;
  - b) In accordance with the selection, obtain image data, from predetermined image data stored in a store, the image data defining one or more modelled images;
  - c) Present the one or more of the images on a display; and,
  - 10 d) Present annotations on the display in response to one or more input commands.
- 2) A method according to claim 1, the image data defining one or more image sequences, the method including causing the processing system to:
  - a) Present one or more of the images in the image sequence in response to an input commands;
  - 15 b) Select a respective one of the images in response to an input command; and,
  - c) Present image annotations for the selected image.
- 3) A method according to claim 2, wherein the image sequence is animated.
- 4) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, the annotations including at least one of:
  - a) Text annotations; and,
  - 20 b) Drawings annotations.
- 5) A method according to any one of the claims 1 to 4, the method including causing the processing system to superimpose the annotations on the respective image.
- 6) A method according to any one of the claims 1 to 5, the method including causing the processing system to store the annotations in a store in accordance with an input  
25 command.
- 7) A method according to claim 6, the stored annotations forming part of the individual's medical records.
- 8) A method according to claim 7, the store being coupled to one or more processing systems by the communications network, the method including allowing selected  
30 medical practitioners to access the patients medical records via communications network using a respective one of the processing systems.

- 9) A method according to any one of the claims 6 to 8, when dependent on claim 5, the method including causing the processing system to store the annotations together with at least an indication of the respective image.
- 10) A method according to any one of the claims 6 to 9, the method including causing the processing system to store the annotation as a respective image.
- 11) A method according to any one of the claims 6 to 10, the method including causing the processing system to store additional information together with the annotations, the additional information including at least one of:
- a) The patient identity;
  - b) The medical practitioner identity;
  - c) A diagnosis; and,
  - d) A time and/or date indication representative of when the annotations were created.
- 12) A method according to any one of the claims 1 to 11, the processing system being coupled to one or more end stations via a communications network, the method including causing the processing system to:
- a) Receive input commands from the end stations via the communications network; and,
  - b) Present the image(s) and the annotations to the medical practitioner using the end station.
- 13) A method according to any one of claims 1 go 12, wherein the modelled images are wine-frame modelled.
- 14) A method according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the images are pre-defined computer generates images.
- 15) A method of allowing medical practitioners to demonstrate the effects of a medical condition, or a treatment to an individual, the method being substantially as hereinbefore described.
- 16) A processing system for allowing medical practitioners to demonstrate the effects of a medical condition, or a treatment to an individual, the processing system including:
- a) A store for storing image data, the image data defining one or more modelled images;
  - b) An input for receiving input commands from the medical practitioner;
  - c) A display for displaying the images; and,
  - d) A processor, the processor being adapted to:

- i) Present one or more of the images on the display in response to an input command; and,
  - ii) Present annotations on the display in response to one or more input commands.
- 17) A processing system according to claim 16, the processing system being adapted to  
5 store the annotations in accordance with an input command.
- 18) A processing system according to claim 17, the processing system being coupled to a database, the processing system being adapted to store the annotations in the database.
- 19) A processing system according to claim 18, the processing system being coupled to the database via a communications network.
- 10 20) A processing system according to any one of the claims 16 to 19, the processor and the store being provided at a base station, the base station being coupled to one or more remote end stations via a communications system, the input and the display being formed from the end stations.
- 15 21) A processing system according to any one of the claims 16 to 20, the processing system being adapted to perform the method of any of the claims 1 to 14.
- 22) A processing system for allowing medical practitioners to demonstrate the effects of a medical condition, or a treatment to an individual, the processing system being substantially as hereinbefore described.
- 20 23) A computer program product for allowing medical practitioners to demonstrate the effects of a medical condition, or a treatment to an individual, the computer program product including computer executable code which when executed on a suitable processing system causing the processing system to perform the method of any one of the claims 1 to 14.
- 25 24) An apparatus for handling medical records, the records including a representation of a medical condition or treatment to be applied to an individual, the apparatus including a processing system, having:
- a) A database; and,
  - b) A processor coupled to the database, the processor being adapted; and,
    - i) Determine the medical records; and,
    - 30 ii) Store the medical records in the database;

wherein the medical records include an image together with one or more associated annotations, the medical records being generated by a second processing system, wherein the second processing system is adapted to:

- a) Obtain image data in accordance with an input command received from a medical practitioner, then image data defining one or more images;
  - b) Present the one or more of the images on a display; and,
  - c) Present annotations on the display in response to one or more input commands.
- 5 25) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the second processing system is the processing system.
- 26) Apparatus according to claim 24, the processing system being coupled to one or more end stations via a communications network, the processor being adapted to:
- a) Receive a medical record request from the end station; and,
  - 10 b) Transfer a selected medical record to the end station in accordance with the request.
- 27) Apparatus according to claim 24, the request including an indication of the medical practitioner making the request, the processor being further adapted to:
- a) Compare the practitioner indication to practitioner data stored in a store, the practitioner data indicating authorisations for the viewing of medical records;
  - 15 b) Determine if the medical practitioner is authorised to view the selected medical record; and
  - c) Transferring the medical record in accordance with a successful determination.
- 28) Apparatus according to any one of the claim 24, the medical records including an image together with one or more associated annotations, the medical record being
- 20 generated in accordance with the methods of any one of the claims 1 to 14.
- 29) Apparatus according to any one of the claim 24, the processing system forming part of a processing system according to any one of the claims 16 to 22.
- 30) Apparatus according to any one of the claim 24, the database being coupled to one or more processing systems by a communications network, thereby allowing the selected
- 25 medical practitioners to access the patients medical records via the database using the processing systems.
- 31) Apparatus according to claim 30, the processing systems being processing systems according to any one of the claims 16 to 22.
- 32) Apparatus for handling medical records, the apparatus being substantially as
- 30 hereinbefore described.